

Halstead Urban District

IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE

COUNTY OF ESSEX.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

J. S. RANSON,

M.R.C.S. ; L.R.C.P. ; D.P.H.

FOR THE YEAR 1937.



Halstead :

Printed by Chas. Walls, 28, High Street.

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SHARDHIGHS,

HALSTEAD,

ESSEX.

June 12th, 1938.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HALSTEAD
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

This report for the year 1937 shows the District to have remained in a healthy state.

The number of cases of infectious disease notified has been very low.

Only two deaths from tuberculosis have occurred. Of the eight cases of tuberculosis notified three were those of persons who have recently taken up residence in the town.

Thirty-two new houses have been built and twenty-three houses have been demolished. Further houses are at the present time being built to re-house the inmates of the remaining unsatisfactory properties. My work with regard to School Children assures me that the general state of health in the district is vastly improved. Much of this improvement must be due to the better general state of housing conditions.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. S. RANSON.

SECTION A.—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in Acres)	..	...	...	1,172
Registrar General's estimate of the resident population for 1937	...	...	...	5,859
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to the Rate Books	...	...	...	1,868
Rateable Value and Sum represented by a penny rate	...	£25,848	£96 . 6 . 2	

Extracts from vital statistics :—

Live Births	Total	Male	Female	
Legitimate	75	40	35	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 12·9
Illegitimate	1	1	0	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... 12·9
Still Births	1			Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 14·8
Deaths	87			Corrected death rate (correction figure 0·8) ... 11·8
				Deaths from puerperal causes ... nil.
Death rate of infants under one year of age :—				
	All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	39·4
	Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	40·0
	Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	nil.
	Deaths from measles (all ages)	...	...	nil.
	Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	...	...	nil.
	Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	nil.

The social conditions of the area have remained as in former years.

There have been no noteworthy outbreaks of infectious disease.

TABLE A.
(Registrar General's Figures.)

Cause of Death.				Male.	Female.
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	-	-	0	0
2	Measles	-	-	0	0
3	Scarlet Fever	-	-	0	0
4	Whooping Cough	-	-	0	0
5	Diphtheria	-	-	0	0
6	Influenza	-	-	2	1
7	Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	0	1
8	Cerebrospinal Fever	-	-	0	0
9	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	-	-	2	0
10	Other Tuberculous Diseases	-	-	0	0
11	Syphilis	-	-	0	0
12	General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	-	-	0	0
13	Cancer, Malignant Disease	-	-	4	4
14	Diabetes	-	-	0	0
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	-	-	4	8
16	Heart Disease	-	-	10	11
17	Aneurysm	-	-	0	0
18	Other Circulatory Diseases	-	-	2	2
19	Bronchitis	-	-	1	3
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	-	-	1	0
21	Other Respiratory Diseases	-	-	1	0
22	Peptic Ulcer	-	-	0	1
23	Diarrhœa etc. (under 2 years)	-	-	0	0
24	Appendicitis	-	-	0	0
25	Cirrhosis of the Liver	-	-	0	0
26	Other Diseases of Liver etc.	-	-	0	0
27	Other Digestive Diseases	-	-	1	0
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	-	-	1	0
29	Puerperal Sepsis	-	-	0	0
30	Other Puerperal Causes	-	-	0	0
31	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth Malformations, etc.	-	-	1	2
32	Senility	-	-	4	12
33	Suicide	-	-	0	0
34	Other Violence	-	-	3	1
35	Other defined Diseases	-	-	3	0
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown	-	-	0	1
Totals				40	47

TABLE B.
Deaths at various Ages.
(Registered and transferred.)

Age Group.					No. of Deaths.
Under one year	...	...	...	...	2
1 year and under 2 years	...	...	...	...	0
2 years	"	5	"	...	0
5	"	"	15	"	0
15	"	"	25	"	1
25	"	"	35	"	5
35	"	"	45	"	1
45	"	"	55	"	6
55	"	"	65	"	15
65	"	"	75	"	23
75 years and upwards	...	...	...	...	37
Total					90

SECTION B.—General provision of Health Services for the Area.

A. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

(1) J. S. RANSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health (also M.O.H. Halstead Rural District and Assistant County Medical Officer for the Halstead Area.)

(2) W. A. NICHOLSON, M.I.M.C.E.

Sanitary Inspector (also Surveyor.)

B. There have been no changes or developments in the following services during the year.

- (1) Laboratory facilities.
- (2) Ambulance facilities.
- (3) Nursing in the Home.
- (4) Clinics and treatment Centres.
- (5) Hospitals.

The motor ambulance stationed at the Infectious Diseases Hospital is used for all types of cases.

SECTION C.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water is obtained from a boring 300 feet deep situated near the River Colne, from which it is pumped into two water towers with a storage capacity of 134,000 gallons.

During the months of July and August the rest level of the water in the well dropped 12 inches and has remained at that level during the remainder of the year.

No analysis of the water has been made during the year.

No extensions of watermains have been laid.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

100 yards of 6 inch sewer has been laid to receive drainage from Houses in course of erection.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There are 24 pail closets and 2 pit closets in the outlying parts of the District. Five pail closets have been converted into water closets.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

All dry house refuse is collected weekly in horse drawn covered vehicles by the Council's employees and is disposed of in a disused gravel pit.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Number of Inspections and Re-inspections	...	965
Nuisances detected	... ..	257
Water Closets repaired	... ..	140
Dustbins renewed	... ..	28
Drains repaired	... ..	17
Other Nuisances abated	... ..	43
Informal Notices served	... ..	223
Statutory Notices served	... ..	77
Informal Notices complied	... ..	137
Statutory Notices complied with	... ..	66

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action has been necessary with reference to nuisances arising from smoke.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no privately owned Swimming Baths or Pools in the District. A covered Swimming Bath is maintained by the Council. The water for use in the Bath is supplied from the public supply. The Bath is emptied and thoroughly cleansed every week and the water is treated with Voxsan.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No case has been detected during the year.

SCHOOLS.

The Sanitary condition of the Schools is satisfactory. All Schools are supplied with water from the Public supply.

SECTION D.—Housing.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.*

(1)	(a)	Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	223
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	1259
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	37
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	37
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	18

(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	142
2.	<i>Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.</i>	
	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	39
3.	<i>Action under Statutory Powers during the year.</i>	
(a)	<i>Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 & 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.</i>	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	97
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	92
	(a) By Owners ...	92
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.
(b)	<i>Proceedings under Public Health Acts.</i>	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	Nil.
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.	
	(a) By Owners ...	Nil.
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.
(c)	<i>Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.</i>	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	18
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	23

(d) *Proceedings under Section 12 of the
Housing Act, 1936.*

(1)	Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.
(2)	Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil.

4. *Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding.*

(a) (1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	29
(2)	Number of families dwelling therein ...	30
(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein ...	182
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	11
(c) (1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	4
(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	33
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ...	Nil.
(e)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	Nil.

SECTION E.—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY

There are 6 Cowkeepers and 7 Purveyors of Milk registered in the District. The premises are inspected at varying intervals and have always been found in a clean and Sanitary condition.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There are 5 Slaughterhouses and 10 Bakehouses in the District which are inspected at frequent intervals.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	832	Nil	572	1976	2028
Number inspected	40	Nil	23	72	124
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcase condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcase of which some part of organ was condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2
Carcase of which some part of organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.6

SECTION F.—Prevalence and control over Infectious and other Diseases.

There have been very few cases of infectious disease notified during the year, and no noteworthy outbreak of any non-notifiable infectious disease.

CANCER.

The number of deaths certified as being due to this disease shows no increase over that for the preceding year.

No action has been taken to improve local facilities for imparting information for diagnosis and for treatment.

No local investigations have been made.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action has been taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act 1925 for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from disease or injury to the eyes.

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 (relating to persons suffering from tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act 1925 (relating to the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.)

TABLE C.
Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	3	3	0
Diphtheria	1	1	0
Pneumonia	0	0	0
Erysipelas	4	1	0
Paratyphoid Fever	0	0	0
Totals	8	5	0

AGE GROUPS OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED.

Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 and over.
Scarlet Fever					1		2				
Erysipelas							1		3		
Diphtheria							1				
Totals			0	0	1	0	4	0	3	0	0

SPECIMENS EXAMINED BY BACTERIOLOGIST.

Specimen.	Number Examined.	
Swabs for Diphtheria	...	24
Sputa	...	30
Blood for Typhoid	...	7
Hair for Ringworm	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	3
Water	...	0
	Total	66

4. TUBERCULOSIS. NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1937.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	RESPIRATORY.		NON-RESPIRATORY.		RESPIRATORY.		NON-RESPIRATORY.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5								
15	2	1	1		1			
25	1			1				
35	1				1			
45								
55	1							
65 upwards.								
Totals.	5	1	1	1	2	0	0	0

Two cases were admitted to a County Sanatoria during the year.
All deaths were of cases previously notified.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

	Premises. (1)	Number of		
		Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	33	2	Nil.
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	102	2	Nil.
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' Premises)	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Total	135	4	Nil.

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H M. Inspector. (4)	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—</i>				
Want of cleanliness	2	2		
Want of ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors				
Other nuisances				
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient unsuitable or defective not separate for sexes	3	3		
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts:—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ...				
Other offences				
(Excluding offences relating to out work and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops (Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)				
Total	5	5		

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR THE YEAR 1937.

We have been favoured by Mr. FRANCIS N. ADAMS, B.A. with the following monthly averages for the year 1937, taken at the Halstead Brewery, Essex, Climatological Station (139 feet above sea level) :—

1937.	Baro- meter. Ins.	Thermometers.				Mean tem- pera- ture.	Mean range tem- pera- ture.	Amount of cloud at 9 a.m. [0—10]	Temperatures.				Relative humidity saturation = 100.	Rain- fall. Ins.	Days on which rain fell.	Max. rainfall.	
		At 9 a.m.		Max.	Min.				High- est. Max.	Day of month.	Low- est. Min.	Day of month.				Ins.	Day of month.
		Dry.	Wet.														
January	29.71	39.8	38.9	46.2	34.9	40.5	11.3	6.7	55	6	27	30	93.0	4.54	22	.60	24
February	29.48	42.2	40.7	48.5	37.1	42.8	11.4	7.6	55	3, 15	29	24	87.5	3.08	21	.68	7
March	29.55	39.6	37.5	46.5	32.0	39.7	13.6	7.1	56	20	25	29	83.0	3.41	17	.61	10
April	29.75	48.7	46.3	55.6	41.1	48.5	14.2	8.5	62	24	29	10, 23, 29	82.5	3.15	15	.61	9
May	29.94	57.1	52.8	63.0	46.0	54.0	17.0	6.9	79	25	36	1	73.5	2.25	11	.72	20
June	29.98	62.9	56.8	69.0	49.0	59.0	20.0	6.6	81	11	40	17	67.5	2.09	12	.58	10
July	29.97	64.8	59.7	71.0	54.0	62.0	17.0	7.9	83	3	45	30	71.5	1.34	10	.53	15
August	30.03	65.5	60.7	74.0	54.0	64.0	20.0	7.1	88	7	37	16, 23	73.5	.74	7	.40	14
September	29.89	59.5	55.4	67.0	47.0	57.0	20.0	5.9	81	7	32	21	76.0	1.15	16	.27	12
October	29.91	52.4	50.7	59.0	44.0	51.0	15.0	8.4	68	2	23	18	88.5	1.24	9	.46	22
November	29.93	40.6	39.8	48.0	34.9	41.4	13.1	7.1	56	3, 4	21	20	94.0	1.24	10	.65	1
December	29.74	36.9	36.3	41.1	32.6	36.8	8.5	7.9	55	2, 23	21	20		3.23	18	.64	13

Average Rainfall for last 10 years (inches):—1928, 24.49; 1929, 24.31; 1930, 25.59; 1931 22.04; 1932, 21.48; 1933, 17.00; 1934, 18.70; 1935, 27.49; 1936, 26.57; 1937, 27.46. Average:—23.51 inches.

Average Rainfall for last 10 years (inches):—1928, 24.49; 1929, 24.31; 1930, 25.59; 1931 22.04; 1932, 21.48; 1933, 17.08; 1934, 18.70; 1935, 27.42; 1936, 26.57; 1937, 27.46. Average :—23.51 inches.

Average Rainfall for the last 45 years :—23.24 inches.

